Crop Insurance Scheme

504. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article which appeared in the 'Business Standard' of January 31, 1987 regarding Crop Insurance Scheme; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to plug the loophols pointed out in the said article?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): Yes, Sir.

(b) The article gives information on the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme. However some of the points mentioned in the article such as, ceilling of Rs.10,000 for irrigated areas, and Rs. 5,000 for unirrigated areas, are not correct. The Scheme has been extended to only loanee farmers. Providing insurance cover to non-loanee farmers would involve huge administrative machinery for collection of premium, supervision of the crops, varification of claims, payment of indemnities, etc. It is not correct to say that the scheme is not for helping the farmers but for helping the financial institution. In fact, the schemes as proved to be of benefit to the farmers. The suggestion that the premium should be paid by the farmers themselves rather than built in to the crop loans extended to the farmers would mean appointment of large staff for collection of premium and it will be very costly. It is true that there is a lot of scope for expansion of the scheme in farmer coverage and area. However, the scheme is getting momentum gradually. The Government of India is making efforts to bring about further improvements in the scheme.

Technology on Cattlefeed

505. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in 'Business Standard' of January 31, 1987 under the caption indigenous technology on cattlefeed ignored;

(b) whether it is a fact that a technology developed by Pantnagar University in 1978 is being used by farmers in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Indonesia but ignored in India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Rise in prices of edible oils

506. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of edible oils both indigenous and imported have sky-rocketed during the recent months;

(b) if so, the details of the variation in the prices of edible oils between January 1986 and January 1987; and

(c) what are the reasons therefor and what measures were taken by Government to control the prices and protect the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) The prices of indigenous edible oils have risen during recent months. The imported edible oil